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Note on Stars suitable for the Determination of Clock errors.

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The total number of stars whose apparent places are given in the revised list contained in the *Nautical Almanac* for 1898 is 404, including sixteen close polar stars. It may, at the present time, be of interest to show (with special reference to Mr. Stone's paper in the last number of the *Monthly Notices*) the distribution of the *Nautical Almanac* stars situated between + 40° and — 35° dec., and which, therefore, with few exceptions, are suitable for the determination of clock-errors.

The diagram (Plate 13) shows the general distribution of the stars referred to, including *all* the Greenwich clock-stars and sixty additional stars. The adopted places of many of these latter stars are, necessarily, at present of considerably inferior accuracy to those of the former. The names, magnitudes (taken from the *Harvard Photometry*, or the *Uranometria Argentina*), and approximate mean places for 1898 of the sixty additional stars are appended.

It will be seen that the distribution is not altogether an ideal one, but may, perhaps, be considered fairly satisfactory, bearing in mind the various claims that had to be adjusted, as equitably as was practicable, in making the selection for such a work as the *Nautical Almanac.*

Although I had not the advantage of seeing Mr. Stone's list of proposed additions to the Greenwich clock-stars in time to make any use of it in revising the *Nautical Almanac* stars, it will be observed that fourteen of these proposed additions are in the *Nautical Almanac* list.

I may take the opportunity of stating that arrangements have been made with Professor Tietjen for the exchange of certain portions of the calculations made for the German and English Ephemerides, in extension of the system of co-operation already established with Professor Newcomb. The computing energy thus set free cannot, perhaps, be better utilised than by still further enlarging the list of stars whose apparent places are given in the *Nautical Almanac*, and thus improving the general distribution of those situated in the neighbourhood of the equator.

It may not be out of place to remark that the time seems almost ripe for the realisation of a project that has long been a desideratum in practical astronomy—*i.e.* the adoption of a uniform system of clock-stars in the astronomical ephemerides of different nations. The advantages of such a step are sufficiently obvious, and have recently been pointed out by Professor Hall (*Astronomical Journal*, No. 321). I trust that, before many years have passed, it may be possible to carry out this much-needed reform.

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Stars (other than Greenwich Clock-stars) whose apparent places are given in the Nautical Almanac 1898.

Star.	Mag.	Approximate				
		R.A.			Dec.	
		h	m	s	°	′
α Sculptoris	4·1	0	53	41	−29	55
ζ Ceti	3·8	1	46	25	−10	50
υ Ceti	3·8	1	55	12	−21	34
β Trianguli	3·1	2	3	28	+34	30
κ Fornacis	5·4	2	17	53	−24	17
π Ceti	4·3	2	39	16	−14	17
β Fornacis	4·7	2	44	49	−32	50
ζ Persei	3·1	3	47	43	+31	35
ε Persei	3·0	3	51	0	+39	43
υ^4 Eridani	3·3	4	14	2	−34	3
53 Eridani	3·9	4	33	30	−14	30
π^1 Orionis	3·3	4	44	18	+ 6	47
γ Orionis	1·9	5	19	40	+ 6	15
ζ Tauri	3·0	5	31	33	+21	5
θ Aurigæ	2·7	5	52	46	+37	12
ζ Canis Maj.	3·0	6	16	24	−30	1
ε Geminorum	3·2	6	37	39	+25	14
α Canis Maj.	−1·4	6	40	39	−16	35
δ Canis Maj.	1·9	7	4	15	−26	14
γ Monocerotis	4·2	7	36	22	− 9	19
20 Puppis	5·1	8	8	39	−15	29
30 Monocerotis	3·9	8	20	34	− 3	34
a Mali	3·6	8	39	30	−32	49
ζ Hydræ	3·3	8	50	0	+ 6	20
α Lyncis	3·4	9	14	51	+34	49
h Mali	4·9	9	16	58	−25	32
κ Hydræ	4·9	9	35	25	−13	52
22 Sextantis	5·4	10	12	34	− 7	34
α Antliæ	4·5	10	22	29	−30	33
ν Hydræ	3·3	10	44	36	−15	40
β Crateris	4·4	11	6	38	−22	16
ξ Hydræ	3·8	11	27	59	−31	18
γ Virginis	2·8	12	36	29	− 0	53
α Canum Ven.	3·0	12	51	15	+38	52
γ Hydræ	3·4	13	13	22	−22	38
π Hydræ	3·5	14	0	34	−26	11

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Star.	Mag.	Approximate				
		R.A.			Dec.	
		h	m	s	°	′
20 Libræ	3·2	14	58	6	−24	53
δ Boötis	3·5	15	11	23	+33	42
μ Serpentis	3·5	15	44	18	− 3	7
δ Scorpii	2·5	15	54	18	−22	20
β Herculis	2·8	16	25	50	+21	43
ε Scorpii	2·2	16	43	33	−34	6
30 Ophiuchi	5·0	16	55	41	− 4	4
δ Herculis	3·3	17	10	50	+24	58
π Herculis	3·4	17	11	30	+36	55
ν Ophiuchi	3·5	17	53	25	− 9	46
γ^2 Sagittarii	3·0	17	59	15	−30	26
ε Sagittarii	2·1	18	17	24	−34	26
σ Sagittarii	2·3	18	48	56	−26	25
λ Aquilæ	3·6	19	0	50	− 5	2
π Sagittarii	3·1	19	3	42	−21	11
β Cygni	3·1	19	26	36	+27	45
γ Cygni	2·3	20	18	34	+39	56
ε Cygni	2·7	20	42	5	+33	35
1 Piscis Aust.	5·0	20	55	2	−32	39
61 Cygni	5·1	21	2	20	+38	15
η Pegasi	3·1	22	38	13	+29	41
δ Aquarii	3·4	22	49	14	−16	22
c^2 Aquarii	3·6	23	4	0	−21	44
27 Piscium	5·0	23	53	27	− 4	7

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